

Story County Conservation Board
February 14, 2022
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:33 PM

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Christine Laumer – present

Nancy Franz – present

Jim Pease – present

Craig Meyers – present

Ted Tedesco – absent

Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox

Marianne Harrelson

Sara Carmichael

GUESTS

Mike Meetz

Lorna Carroll

Clark Risdal

Molly Hanson

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. STAFF REPORT – Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator, submitted a written annual report. She reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 10, 2022. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. MCU.

7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 7th.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Action Form – Promotion from Conservation Technician I to Conservation Technician II, effective 2/14/22, Hunter Simmons @ \$21.74/hr.; Park Ranger new hire contingent on pre-employment screening, Olivia VanderHart @ \$24.53/hr.; Park Ranger new hire contingent on pre-employment screening, Logan Heissel @ \$24.53/hr. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

B. Consideration Of Updated Conservation Center Use And Indoor Programming Management Protocols: COVID-19. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease. Cox indicated that we may have more updates to the protocols in the near future. MCU.

C. Consideration Of First Reading Of Revisions To The Story County Conservation Rules And Regulations. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Meyers. Meyers questioned the amount of the increase for reservable sites. Cox and Harrelson explained that the board approved a \$3/site increase for reserved sites, but the only way we can enter the

information into the MCP system is a cost per night. We are going to re-evaluate the increase amount and will make the correction on the second reading. MCU.

- D. Consideration Of Contract Between Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa And Story County Conservation For Natural Resources Improvements At Doolittle Prairie For \$5,885.00. MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz. MCU.
- E. Consideration Of Contract With Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC For Firewood Sales At Hickory Grove Park Campground And Dakins Lake Campground. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease. Cox explained that Finco has been contracted for several years and we have not had many issues with their service. MCU.
- F. Consideration Of Contract With Snyder & Associates For Design Services For Paving The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail Between The South Skunk River Bridge And 610th Avenue. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Pease. MCU.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

A. Discussion Of Deppe Property Draft Master Plan. The board hired RDG Planning & Design to create a master plan for the Deppe property to use for fundraising efforts and grant solicitation. Cox emailed the board members a marked-up copy of the draft from the internal committee working on this project. The intent is to gather comments from this meeting and wrap them in with comments from the committee and give them back to RDG to incorporate into the plan. Molly Hanson, RDG, reviewed the draft plan with the board. After a lengthy discussion and comments from the board, Molly will make the updates to the plan and anticipates having a final master plan to be presented at next month's meeting.

12. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on current open staff positions. We have two Tech I position's that we are currently interviewing for. The Outreach Coordinator position closes on February 20th. He was contacted by the City of Ames to support a stream stabilization project at Brookside Park. He told them that he was not ready to offer his support at this time. They are going to review items and are going to move forward with community engagement soon, afterwhich he may be ready to support. He was contacted by an individual that was using the boat launch at Peterson Park last year. The individual put his vehicle into the lake and had some questions. He is consulting with the County Attorney regarding the incident and will follow up with the individual. He mentioned that we will need to have further discussion about local funding options relatively soon. Current legislation at the Capitol could impact decisions that are being made. The Hickory Grove sewer contract is in negotiations with our County Attorney and the IRUA attorney. It should be finalized in the next week or two.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been working on the Deppe and DEI projects and has attending several Climate Action meetings with the City of Ames. Pease has been working on legislation items. Meyers has been working with OAOSC on membership and having their members reach out to their legislators. Laumer has been working on the Deppe project.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Pease, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board